

# Thunderbird Bulletin

Camosun Gyro Club, Victoria, B.C., Canada



## KEEPING UP

In the midst of this viral assault on all of us, our club still exists (although contributions to the *Bulletin* are woefully absent).

We are actually expanding!

Two new members – Peter Gosniak and David Caul (who transferred in from Victoria) have joined us and others may be waiting in the wings.

The District is also very active in keeping Gyro not only still going, but very much essential. Indeed, a new quarterly DIV Newsletter is in preparation and Governor Matthew Williams is hosting a virtual Christmas cocktail.

All in all, we're staying together, which is what Gyro is all about. See what others are doing on page 4!

Colm

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**MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND A  
HAPPY NEW YEAR  
TO ALL !**

## EDITORIAL

### The Bright Side

Covid-19 is definitely not something anyone would have wished on ourselves or others. It means not seeing our friends and family, spending too much time alone and/or indoors and many sacrifices.

However, who would have thought that in our later years we would be learning how to make sourdough bread, or pâté, or ginger beer, or just beer? How about crochet, or knitting? Then, of course, there's cooking and the extra kilos we may have acquired as a result of our own or our partner's increased culinary output ....

Along the way, we have also acquired long-distance communication skills and technologies. Think Zoom, Skype, FaceTime or Google Meet, who knew?

"Confinement" can come with a measure of "Liberation"!

## A WORD FROM PRESIDENT MIKE WEDEKIND KEEPING THE FLAME ALIVE



“If at first you don’t succeed, try, try again. Then quit. There’s no point in being a damn fool about it”. W.C. Fields.

We booked our Christmas/Holiday party at the University of Victoria Club with our Lady Gyros for December 19<sup>th</sup> but the virus, in the form of Dr. Henry intervened.

Undaunted, we tried again for December 19<sup>th</sup> but again the virus intervened.

Now we are going to try, try again for January 26<sup>th</sup> just to prove that W.C. Fields was a quitter! The Club is hoping that we will choose Turkey, probably because it has a freezer full. Is there anything wrong about having a Christmas/Holiday party on January 26<sup>th</sup>?

District 4 Governor Matthew Williams and his wife Kelly are arranging a Virtual

Christmas/Holiday Cocktail Party on December 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 pm. Here is the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87960825531?pwd=R21hSnhtRGRSbkREMVcwbEgxTUI1QT09>

Simply click on the link and, if asked, the password is 712672. This event will be available to all Gyros in District 4. Hopefully, you’ll be able to say hello to Gyros you know.

We have a new member, David Caul, who is already a Gyro, lately of the Victoria Club. The postponement of Christmas means that he will not be inducted and that we will not hear again Dennis Moffatt’s speech about the history of Gyro at both the international and local level stressing that we are a Fraternity of Friendship and that promoting fraternity and friendship is expected of every member.

That is a shame, I’m sure I am not alone when I say that I would like to hear Dennis’ speech again for a new member. The (January) “Christmas Dinner” would be an ideal occasion to invite a prospective member.

We are still looking for a Secretary. Can you help? It is not a difficult job; you don’t need to be able to spell! And one other request: I have given myself the title of “Webmaster”, very grand, but I need an understudy, someone who would relish the challenge and who would eventually take over from me.

One last thing. We have 100 years of history sitting in boxes in Stu and Dawn Cameron’s house and I have asked a Lady Gyro if she would be interested in writing a history of our club. Perhaps then we could donate these records to BC Archives.

By the end of January 2021, we must pay our dues of \$15.00 each to District 4. Here is the link to the District 4 Budget:

<https://camosungyro.com/resources/Documents/Budget%202020-2021.pdf>

Normally, dues are \$30.00 but because of the money that was not spent last summer the fees have been reduced by half.

Through every moment of the Holidays, and every day of the New Year, may peace and happiness be yours.

In Gyro Friendship,

Mike

### **Notes on District IV Board Meeting, 21/11/2020**

We agreed that it would be wise to issue a "communique" summarising Dr Henry's new rules and how they impact Gyro (Matt and Colm).

A District newsletter or bulletin would help keep Gyros throughout the District connected. Such a publication would include submissions from all clubs as much as possible and Club President will be invited to solicit material from members (Colm and Matt).

A call-around throughout the District would keep members in touch and a phone call would likely bring a more "human" touch to communication. (Don with Mike).

Some form of Secret Santa brings a sense of community and fun to Christmastime in lockdown and could be made to work across the District (Trevor with Don).

A Christmas Zoom "happy hour" on 22/12 will be organised and all District Gyros will be invited (Matt).

In general, Clubs should think about "broadcasting" interesting speakers to the rest of the District - and even to International - using modern communication methods, such as Zoom. This might entail upgrading current Zoom subscriptions or channeling the event through the District subscription, which would need to be upgraded (Mike)

The database needs to be fixed to re-enable mass mailings (Matt).

## Minutes of District IV Executive Meeting 05/12/2020

Minutes Gyro District IV Board Meeting

05/12/20

(via Zoom)

Present:

- Governor Matthew Williams (Chair)
- Lt Governor Trevor Slaney
- Secretary Colm Foy
- Treasurer Michael Wedekind (also representing Camosun)
- PDG Don Patterson (also representing Fraser Delta)

The following clubs were individually represented:

- Kamloops – Jordan Henry
- Kitimat – Steve Revell
- Nanaimo – John Nielsen
- Prince George – Paul Williams
- Vancouver, BC – Peter Howes

Guest: Ms Wanda Ollis (Item 2/b)

Governor Matthew Williams introduced the *Agenda*, which was unanimously Adopted.

Open discussion ensued, with several members expressing support for a District-wide effort to bring Gyros together despite the pandemic.

**Item 1** *Connecting Members During COVID*. There was general agreement that the District had a role to play, especially by sharing experiences of Clubs in coping with the isolation that could help others facing similar difficulties.

**Item 2** *District-wide Initiatives*

**Item 2/a District Executive Meetings** It was unanimously Agreed that the Executive (Board, plus Presidents of every Club in the District) would meet virtually at least quarterly and more frequently, if necessary, between now and the District Convention. One of the quarterly meetings would be the District Convention and another would be the Interim Convention. The Board (Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary, Treasurer, Webmaster and PDG) would meet more frequently either in full or reduced mode, according to availability and need.

**Item 2/b District IV Bulletin** It was revealed that Wanda Ollis (spouse of Gyro Colm Foy [Camosun]) has offered to co-ordinate a District Bulletin on a quarterly basis. Her offer was Accepted. Wanda then outlined some ideas for the new Bulletin, emphasising that she would be counting on a form of “Bulletin Committee” drawn from District Clubs to promote the Bulletin, ensure content will be of interest to members and to gather articles from among the membership. This was Agreed. She suggested that regular features should be accompanied by a theme or series of themes per Bulletin; Clubs should be asked to spotlight a member, an activity or even the club itself. Other ideas would follow, hopefully with input from the new “Bulletin Committee” (provisional title).

Contributions for the first issue would be **December 15**, for a publication date of 20/12. Kitimat offered to share the template used for their Newsletter.

**Item 2/c Common Events/Speakers** District discussions of the topic of the possibilities opened up by the use of Zoom continued. Camosun signalled that a very interesting speaker in the current context was expected at the forthcoming Club Christmas dinner (19/12), if it was able to go ahead, and President Mike Wedekind was considering “Zooming” the meeting, if not. Could this be an opportunity for a District IV-wide session? Others spoke to the issue of “advertising” a District speaker, while Kamloops suggested polling members to find out what kind of speakers they would want to hear. It was decided that Clubs would, for the time being, take the initiative of organising meetings that they think might interest other Clubs in the District. If time permits, such meetings could be publicised in the Bulletin in advance.

**Item 2/d** The District web site ([www.district4gyro.com](http://www.district4gyro.com)) is not well known, partly because it currently has little information of interest. Governor Matthew favours enhancing it and publicising it among Gyros. That implies keeping the calendar up-to-date, posting the new Bulletin and inserting links, including to the new, improved database when it is ready and operational.

### **Item 3 Holiday Initiatives**

**Item 3/a Secret Santa** The Prince George Club is the leader in this field and has already initiated a ‘Secret Santa’ operation in the Club. The idea has caught on and PG members are getting involved in relatively large numbers. The design and organisation of the operation can be found in *Annex 1* to these Minutes. The meeting congratulated Prince George on having got

the scheme going and sharing its experiences with the rest of the District. If nothing else, 'secret Santa' keeps people in contact with each other, which is one of the main aims.

**Item 3/b** *Calling Tree* The idea of calling Gyros through an organised roster has been adopted by a number of Clubs and can easily be replicated elsewhere. There are several options, ranging from a periodical rotating Executive calling list, to ad-hoc programmes, to caller allocation (each Gyro is responsible for calling one or more fellow Gyros). It was reported that such calling trees are much appreciated.

**Item 3/c** *Virtual Cocktail Party (Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>)*

i *Rotating rooms*, ii *Themed Rooms*, and iii *Performance/Live Music*) It was decided that all these ideas, while great in themselves, produced far more effort on the part of the host (Governor Matthew and First Lady Kelly) and that the event would be most successful if it is kept as simple as possible. However, the topic produced some interesting ideas for the future, including virtual cocktails with geographical themes, games (such as mystery murder), or fancy dress.

## Concluding Observations

It was agreed that, in addition to these Minutes, a letter would be addressed to all the Club Executive members informing them of the proposed new Bulletin and asking for contributions. These will need to be received by Wanda Ollis ([wanda.ollis@gmail.com](mailto:wanda.ollis@gmail.com)) by NO LATER than **15 December**. The letter is to be drafted by Secretary Colm and sent asap to Governor Matthew.

Annex: Prince George's Secret Santa (text of email notification and flyer [PDF])

Gentlemen,

This is an initiative that we were going to try at the District level. Unfortunately, the idea arose a bit too late given the size of our District, shipping delays and cross border issues. But Paul and I have put our heads together and tweaked it to work at the Club level. I have faith that our Prince George Gyro spirit and our Christmas spirit will make this a success.

It's easy - sign up and Joanne and I will randomly mix up the participants just like many other "Secret Santa" programs. We will then email you individually to notify you of your *Secret Santa Gyro Couple*. Keep it a secret until delivery. Buy a gift and a Christmas card and deliver it, or have it delivered, to the doorstep of your Gyro couple on the weekend of December 19/20. You will receive a gift and card on the same weekend from the gyro couple that picked you.

Some basic rules:

- To sign up, just reply to this email. If you wish your gift to be delivered to an address other than listed on our roster, let me know.

- \$40 limit - This is not set in stone and it is the thought that

counts. You can split it with a gift for him (for example wine )

and for her (for example wine ) or just buy a joint gift for both to

enjoy together (for example, more expensive wine ) . Do whatever you want to do... but you are not expected to exceed \$40.

- **Deadline for me to receive your sign up email is Sunday, December 6 at 5:00 p.m.** Then, Joanne and I will match you up randomly and send you all a private email with your *Secret Santa Gyro Couple* as well as their delivery address. We will match you up

as fast as we can, hopefully Sunday night or Monday. That gives you almost two weeks for shopping before delivery weekend.

- If anyone wishes to participate but is health compromised and cannot shop in public, please call me. My cell phone number is on the roster. We will help you so that no one is left out.

I look forward to receiving sign up emails from as many of you as possible.

Joanne and I miss you all and hope we can safely share your physical company again soon. In the meantime, please help us to do what we can to stay connected and keep our friendships strong in these troubling times.

Take care, stay safe and Merry Christmas.

Yours in Gyro Friendship,



*PRINCE GEORGE GYRO CLUB*  
*SECRET SANTA*

-  \$40 limit
-  participants are randomly assigned to another couple by organizer
-  you will know to whom you will be giving
-  you will not know from whom you will be receiving
-  buy a gift and a Christmas card for your assigned couple
-  gifts and cards to be delivered on the weekend of December 19/20
-  please abide by current Provincial Health Orders - spread Gyro Christmas cheer safely!

*Happy Holidays everyone, stay safe and healthy*



**CAMOSUN CLUB'S FOUNDERS' NIGHT  
WITH VICTORIA AND SIDNEY AT  
THE UNIVERSITY CLUB  
TUESDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2020**

Twenty seven Gyros from three Island Gyro Clubs (Camosun 21, Victoria 5, Sidney 1) gathered at the UVIC Faculty Club (UC) to celebrate and honour the Founding Members of Gyro International.

Camosun President Mike Wedekind called the Meeting to Order at 19:00 and led the group in a passable version of *O Canada*. He then asked all to remain standing and observe a moment of silence in remembrance of those past and present who have served in the armed forces and front lines and who have died. He also asked that we remember Club members who died this past year with special mention of Ed Navickas.

Mike introduced Victoria Club President Dan Blanchard and Sidney Club President Kurt Grillowitzer.

Dan said Grace and said a few words about the Victoria Club. He explained that, while the Covid protocols had halted any regular meetings, various activities such as gathering for coffee and cards had continued for both Gyros and their partners.

Kurt reported that the Sidney Club was small (8 active members) but at the outset of the pandemic, the Club had decided to continue to meet for lunch every 2 weeks. They have done so at various outdoor patio locations in and near Sidney only recently moving indoors for lunch while observing social distance rules etc.

The UC staff served a delicious 3 course meal which was enjoyed by all.

Mike called on Denis Moffatt to install Peter Gosniak, who was proposed by Con Rusnak. Con told members that Peter had lived in a number of Provinces as he and Helen moved across the country finally landing and falling in love with Victoria, A neighbour of Con's, Peter is a Realtor.

Denis proceeded to install Peter with the history of Gyro, describing the organisation, and where the Camosun Club fits into it all. He noted that there were a few obligations to observe as a member but emphasized that the most important thing was to HAVE FUN!! (In passing, he also pointed out that the Club is in need of a Secretary and looking for a volunteer.) He then swore Peter in and welcomed him to the Camosun Gyro Club and presented Peter with his new member kit and pin.

Peter thanked Con for introducing him to Gyro, and the members for their acceptance and friendship while noting that he probably might be the youngest member!

Mike then presented Pat Marshall with his Past Presidents Pin.

After being introduced by Mike, Dist. IV Governor Matt Williams (Nanaimo) brought Greetings from District IV. He went on to recognise the Founding Members noting that Denis Moffatt was always a hard act to follow and in fact had pretty much summed up Matt's comments regarding the Founders while installing Peter. He observed that over the years Gyro had experienced previous pandemics, world wars and other "interruptions" but that the power of friendship envisaged by the Founders has remained unchanged. We still get together, create new, inventive ways of connecting and staying close to our friends.

Pat Marshall thanked Matt for braving the perils of the Malahat to be with us. He also thanked Past Dist. Gov. Don Patterson for his leadership and guidance through Covid 19.

Mike reminded us of the Christmas Party to be held at the UC December 4<sup>th</sup> and adjourned this meeting until then. (Due to Covid, the party was eventually postponed).

(With grateful thanks to David Else's Ghost Writer).

## REMINDER

The District IV Christmas (and belated Hannukah) cocktail will be hosted by Governor Matthew Williams and First Lady Kelly via "Zoom" on

**23<sup>rd</sup> December**

**@**

**19:00 (7pm)**

ALL District IV Gyros and their partners are cordially invited!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87960825531?pwd=R21hSnhtRGRSbkREMVcwbEgxTUI1QT09>

Simply click on the link and, if asked, the password is 712672

**WHO IS ... Peter Gosniak?**

Peter was born and raised in Winnipeg and completed his Diploma in Electronics in 1987.

He met his wife, Helen, in Vancouver in 2001 during a 25 year career in business to business Software Sales and has been happily married for 12 years.

In 2015 they moved to Victoria and Peter decided to begin a new career in real estate. Their children, aged 3 and 7, attend St. Christopher's Montessori School and St. Michael's University School respectively.

Peter is dedicated to his young family and cherishes spending time with his wife and children, especially during their "magical years." Peter is looking forward to forming new Gyro friendships over the next 3

decades. His interests include wine collecting, unique real estate, vintage autos, and family travels.

Peter joined the Camosun Gyro Club in November 2020.

New member David caul will be introduced in the next issue of the *Bulletin*.

## The Penultimate Page

Happy December birthdays to: Chuck Gorrie (01/12), Norman Prelychpan (23/12) and Bob Doell (28/12).

### “Employment” Opportunity (Repeat announcement)

With the sad departure of our Club Secretary, the position is now open for any Club member who feels they would like to give back to the rest of us. Qualifications, though rigorous, are few (as D. Moffatt might say): be a regular attendee – which should cover all of us – be literate (ditto), not be deaf or, at least, not entirely, be able to spare an hour a month or so preparing minutes and liaising with International for new Members’ badges and the Member database, and enjoy POWER. (I made that last one up – Editor).

### Call for Proof of Existence

It will have escaped the attention of those of you who are not actually living in a hole with no internet, phone or mail service, that the Editor of the *Thunderbird Bulletin* is constantly begging for material, especially your bios, travellers’ tales and general stories.

WHAT ARE YOU ALL DOING stuck at home with nothing else to do? Send me your stuff, no matter how “humble” you might think it might be or how little you think your story might be of interest. I can promise you, ALL our stories are of interest. So, please, Gyros, help me out (and yourselves, in the process)!



## THE LAST PAGE

### YOUR EXECUTIVE 2019/2020

President	Mike Wedekind	1 <sup>st</sup> VP	Hans RODENBURGH
Secretary		2 <sup>nd</sup> VP	Tim Evans
Treasurer	Jay FRAY	Past President	Pat Marshall
Director	Ray Mew	Director	Ron FROLEK
Director	Colm FOY	Director	Rick McKay

### CAMOSUN CLUB CALENDAR

Christmas Party	UVIC Club (?)	January (TBC)
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#### Reminder from the *Bulletin* Editor:

All Executive meetings are open to ordinary Gyro Members. In the next season, I am hoping to add them to the Calendar for your information. However, there is usually insufficient space for me to publish the minutes in every issue of the *Bulletin*, unless there is a general demand from Members.

In this edition, there was plenty of space (“liberated” by the dearth of contributions from Camosun Gyros), so we have given you and insight into what goes on at District meetings. Please let me know if you would like to continue seeing reports of District meetings in the *Bulletin*.

Also, would you like your spouses/partners included in the birthday list (without giving their ages, obviously!)

Colm

The *Thunderbird Bulletin* is published by the Camosun Gyro Club for the benefit of its members. The views and ideas expressed in the *Bulletin* are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the Camosun Club or Gyro International. Overall Editor: Colm Foy (colmfoy@gmail.com).